--- 25 Cigarettes - as used by “Rock City / Carreras”, Quebec City, P.Q. - 1952-54 ---

The following *twenty-five* cigarette cancellation series is pure “Rock City / Carreras” beginning in 1952 on the cancellations for **Black Cat** cigarettes. These early cancellations use a weird reverse counting code system starting at **Z** which is **1**, and running backwards to **O** which is **12**, reading as follows:

Z = 1	**W = 4**	**T = 7**	**Q = 10**
Y = 2	**V = 5**	**S = 8**	**P = 11**
X = 3	**U = 6**	**R = 9**	**O = 12**

Thus a cancellation such as **ZVY** reads as **152** [or January 1952], and **XVW** reads as **354** [or March 1954]. This letter coding system using 5 mm. thin serifed Gothic letters in blue ink without a company code, lasted only until March 1954, when it was replaced by a number system.

★**RC-394** - 25 cigarettes, imperf, coded XVX by “Rock City / Carreras”, for March 1953

★**RC-394** - 25 cigarettes, imperf, coded X2 by “Rock City / Carreras”, as an employee “Christmas” pack in 1952

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 14 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1952	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1953	ZVX	---	XVX	WVX	VVX	UVX	TVX	SVX	RVX	QVX	PVX	OVX
1954	ZVW	YVW	XVW	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The collection ***does not contain*** a copy of the *twenty-five* 1952-53 cigarette stamp cancelled with the red vertical dashed line for sale in the Province of Quebec. It would seem that this size pack was not being offered in the Province.

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Carreras”, Quebec City, P.Q. - 1952 ---

The Budget of 1951 without changing the ***excise duty*** ($ 6.00 per thousand small cigarettes) had increased the still in force but no longer printed ***excise tax*** (now enforced by the *Excise Tax Act* - formerly called the *Special War Measures Act*) from $4.00 to $5.50 per thousand small cigarettes.

However the 1952 Budget once again re-established the ***excise tax*** at $4.00 per thousand small cigarettes, and the following Budget of 1953 while maintaining the same *excise tax*, reduced the ***excise duty*** on *small cigarettes* from $6.00 to $ 4.00 per thousand.

The Budget of 1953 reduced the ***excise duty*** from $6.00 to $4.00 per thousand small cigarettes while maintaining the ***excise tax*** at $4.00 per thousand small cigarettes. The changes in the preceding coding format from **YVX** to XVX reflect these taxation alterations.

The tax fluctuations resulted in various changes in the Rock City cancellations as reflected on the preceding page. Various old collections have established the Lee Brandom **C-400** with the 5 mm. black Roman **X** added to **RC-394** represents *Rock City / Carreras* production for 1952 at the reduced ***excise tax*** rate.

★ **RC-394x** - 25 cigarettes, imperf, the Rock City / Carreras 1952 overprint of an 8 mm. Roman **X**

In March 1953 the “Rock City” cancellation changed from using 3 mm. deep blue plain Gothic letters (**YVX** for February) to the use of 5 mm. deep blue serifed thin Gothic letters (**XVX** for March). Without a doubt this was used to indicate production using stamps obtained under the 1953 reduced ***excise duty*** from $6.00 to $4.00 per thousand *small* cigarettes.

3 mm. - **YVX**
February 1953

5 mm. - XVX
March 1953

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Carreras”, Quebec City, P.Q. - 1954-58 ---

Probably beginning in mid-April 1954, the preceding “Rock City” letter code was replaced by a three digit code likely reading *bi-monthly*, using a 5 mm. thin Gothic number *in blue ink* until **141**, and thence *in black ink*, with the “Quebec” series switching to *red ink numbers* at this same point in time.

mimeo **101** - April 1954

mimeo **143** - January 1956

mimeo **200** - June 1958

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 47 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1954	---	---	---	---	---	---	**106**	**108**	**110**	**112**	**114**	---
	---	---	---	**101**	**103**	**105**	**107**	**109**	**111**	**113**	**115**	---
1955	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	**140**
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1956	---	**144**	**146**	**148**	---	**152**	**154**	**156**	**158**	**160**	---	**164**
	143	---	**147**	**149**	---	**153**	---	**157**	**159**	---	**163**	**165**
1957	**166**	---	**170**	---	---	---	**178**	---	---	---	**186**	---
	167	**169**	---	**173**	**175**	**177**	---	---	**183**	**185**	**187**	---
1958	**190**	---	---	---	---	**200**	---	---	---	---	---	---
	191	**193**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Carreras”, Quebec City, P.Q. - 1954-58 ---

Probably beginning in mid-April 1954, the preceding “Rock City” letter code was replaced by a three digit code likely reading *bi-monthly*, using a 5 mm. thin Gothic number *in blue ink* until **141**, and thence *in black ink*, with the “Quebec” series switching to *red ink numbers* at this same point in time.

mimeo **191** - April 1957

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 2 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1954	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1955	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1956	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1957	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	**171**	**191**	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1958	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

This ends the *Rock City / Carreras* date coding probably (if the numbers read *bi-monthly*) around June 1958. An old collection, sold by Erling many years ago, gave the date for **199** as May 1959. This and the other dates in the preceding list are possibly the package purchase dates. I have tried to work-out a *monthly* coding on the above numbers without much success - perhaps the numbers switched every ten days (or three times per month).

In 1957 the “Rothman Tobacco Group” obtained voting control of “Carreras U.K. Ltd.”, which held majority voting stock in “Rock City Tobacco”, and in December 1960 they purchased the “Rock City, Quebec” plant which became the Rothman subsidiary - “Rock City Tobacco Company (1960) Limited”.

The cancellations collected to date indicate that in January 1959 “Rock City Tobacco” adopted the *date coding system* of their parent company “Rothman of Pall Mall”, Toronto, although the succeeding “Rock City” cancellations naturally retain their proper Quebec company code. To date I have located no copies using the Rothman code system cancelled by Rock City for the latter part of 1958. Possibly the plant was closed for a conversion period prior to operation under Rothman control – or more probably there is a flaw in my above *bi-monthly* date calculation.

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Rothman”, Quebec, P.Q. - [6-13D] - 1959-60 ---

Late in 1957 “Rothman of Pall Mall” acquired control of “Rock City Tobacco”, and in 1959 Rock City’s numbering system switched, from the above three-digit consecutive numbers, to the “Rothman” weekly three-digit code, in which the *first two numbers* gave ***the week*** of the year, and *the last digit* provided ***the year***. Initially the numbers are unchanged in design, but (judging from **CRC-386**) upon reaching **459** they have been doubled (at the top and bottom), and finally upon reaching **529** the company code [**6-13D**] has been inserted at the center using a 3 mm. elite type face.

219 - 21st week of 1959

190 - 19th week of 1960

041 - 4th week of 1961

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 26 copies to date ---

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1959	---	---	---	---	---	239	---	319	369	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	379	419	459	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	219	269	---	349	---	439	---	529
			---		229			359			---	
1960	---	---	---	---	---	230	---	---	---	---	---	490
	---	---	---	---	190	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	160	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	510
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
			---		220			---			---	

In 1961 the upper number on the doubled date has been discontinued. These codes are also found **in red ink**.

1961	---	051	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	191	241	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	201	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	041	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	391	---	---	---
			---		221			---			---	

By August 1961 the Quebec red cancellation was once again in use. To date I have not located any examples cancelled in the above format after the 39th week (October) of 1961, nevertheless I have begun the following series as if it was started in January of 1962. If no later copies from 1961 are located the dating can be adjusted to match.

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - a single copy to date ---

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1961	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	311	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
			---		---			---			---	

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Rock City / Rothman”, Quebec, P.Q. - [6-13D] - 1962-68 ---

A new series begins in 1962 using a heavy 3 mm. Roman wide spaced company code **6 - 13 D** closer to the top of the stamp, over a two digit numbered sequence in 5 mm. Gothic placed below center.

These numbers currently read from **11** to **77** probably in an unbroken sequence. This first series listed below exists only on “Rothman / Rock City”, Quebec [**6-13D**] production, and is not found on the “Rothman of Pall Mall” [**12-50E**] stamps.

--- with a single 5 mm. Gothic number, and a 3 mm. 6 — 13D at the top - 10 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	11	---	---	---	15	---	---	---	---	---	21	22
1963	---	---	25	---	---	---	---	---	---	32	---	34
1964	---	---	---	---	39	40	---	---	---	---	---	---
1965	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	76	77	---	---	---	---	---
1968	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

[Note: **22** a copy of **RC-416** has been overprinted **OVER / 2 ½ Lbs. / PER 1000** in black ink - taken from eBay]

--- with a single 5 mm. Gothic number, and a 3 mm. 6 — 13D at the top - 2 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1963	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1964	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1965	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	76	77	---	---	---	---	---
1968	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The twin **79** as found in the *twenty cigarette* section (a used copy) is inscribed in pencil on the reverse side *Sportsman - May '63*. Because of this inscription, which may be erroneous, I am in a quandary about the order and dating of these two series. Prior to 1962 (as previously listed) “Rock City / Carreras”, and from 1968 to 1974 “Rock City / Rothman” were definitely using *monthly code dating*, and it is probable that this single digit, and the following double digit, codes run concurrently and read as months - I need more of the missing copies.

--- 25 Cigarettes - Rock City / Rothman, Quebec, P.Q. - [6-13D] - 1962-68 ---

The previous numbers seemingly read from **11** to **77** in an unbroken sequence. The first series, as listed above, exists only on "Rothman / Rock City" [**6-13D**] Quebec production, and is not found on the "Rothman of Pall Mall" [**12-50E**] stamps - the twin codes below occur on both [**6-13D**] and [**12-50E**]. I have set the following series as if it ran concurrently with the preceding series. This may not be correct.

--- with twin 5 mm. Gothic numbering, and a 1½ mm. 6-13D in the center - 17 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1963	---	---	---	---	---	28	29	30	31	---	---	---
1964	---	---	---	38	---	40	41	---	---	---	---	---
1965	---	48	49	---	---	---	---	54	---	56	---	58
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	80	---	---
1968	---	---	---	---	---	88	89	---	---	---	---	---
1969	95	96	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- with twin 5 mm. Gothic numbering, and a 1½ mm. 6-13D in the center - 4 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1962	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	20	---	---
1963	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1964	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1965	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1966	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1967	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1968	---	84	85	---	---	---	---	---	91	---	---	---
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

--- 25 Cigarettes - Series “C” - “Rock City / Rothman” - [6-13D] - 1969 ---

In 1969, initially using the imperforate Series “C” *twenty-five* cigarette stamp, “Rock City” begins a new code using a doubled 5 mm. date format and a central 3 mm. company code [**6-13D**]. The dating is based on the twelve letter monthly code-word **AMBIDEXTROUS**. To date I have listed eleven examples of this code cancellation on **RC-394** - which are an *end-of-run* overlapping usage.

--- with twin 5 mm. Gothic letters, and a 1½ mm. 6-13D in the center - 8 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969	A	M	---	I	---	---	X	T	---	O	U	S

--- with twin 5 mm. Gothic letters, and a 1½ mm. 6-13D in the center - 3 copies to date ---

[★RC-394]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	T	R	---	U	---

--- 25 Cigarettes - “Wings” Series - “Rock City / Rothman” - [13D-6] - 1969-74 ---

In 1970 the new system continues onto the “Wings” Series **RC-817** with a centred but reversed company code [**13D-6**].

--- with twin 5 mm. Gothic letters, and a 1½ mm. 6-13D in the center - 21 copies to date ---

[★RC-817]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1970	---	---	B7	I7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1971	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	O1	U1	---
1972	A2	---	---	---	---	E2	X2	---	---	O2	---	---
1973	---	M3	B3	I3	---	E3	X3	---	R3	---	---	---
1974	---	M4	B4	I4	D4	E4	X4	---	R4	---	---	---

--- with twin 5 mm. Gothic letters, and a 1½ mm. 6-13D in the center - 4 copies to date ---

[★RC-817]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1969	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1970	A7	---	---	---	D7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1971	---	M1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	S1
1972	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1973	---	---	---	---	---	---	X3	---	---	---	---	---
1974	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

The “Wings” Series concludes in August 1974.

File path is [c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 25 cigarettes \ 6-13D - small - 1951-74],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 31st 2013, JBH